

(e) The manufacturer may submit a written appeal to the Postal Service within 30 calendar days of receipt of the decision. The appeal must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons that the manufacturer believes that the administrative sanction was erroneously imposed. The submission of an appeal stays the effectiveness of the sanction.

(f) The imposition of an administrative sanction under this section does not preclude any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy that is available by law to the Postal Service, the United States, or any other person or concern.

§ 501.15 Materials and workmanship.

All meters must adhere to the quality in materials and workmanship of the approved production model and must be manufactured with suitable jigs, dies, tools, etc., to ensure proper maintenance and interchangeability of parts.

§ 501.16 Breakdown and endurance testing.

Each meter model proposed for manufacturing must pass without error or breakdown the following described printing cycle endurance test, which includes operation of the printing mechanism with proper registration of the selected postage value in both the ascending and descending registers. At reasonably frequent intervals, the manufacturer must take meters at random from production and subject them to breakdown tests to make certain that quality and performance standards are maintained.

(a) For meters that operate at 100 or more printing cycles per minute—4 million cycles. For meters that operate at less than 100 printing cycles per minute (and cannot be used interchangeably on power-base machines that operate at 100 or more printing cycles per minute)—2 million cycles.

(b) For multidenomination and omnidenomination meters, postage value selection elements must be tested for one-half million operations. A complete operation includes selection of a value and return to zero.

(c) Balance register lockout operation must be done at the start of, at

intervals during, and after the printing cycle test.

§ 501.17 Protection of printing dies and keys.

During the process of fabricating parts and assembling postage meters, the manufacturer must exercise due care to prevent loss or theft of keys or of serially numbered postage-printing dies or component parts (such as denomination-printing dies, or auxiliary power supply and meter-setting equipment for electronic meters) that might be used in some manner to defraud the Postal Service of revenue. All serially numbered printing dies produced should be accounted for by assembly into meters or by evidence of mutilation or destruction. Postage printing dies removed from meters and not suitable for reassembly must also be mutilated so that the dies cannot be used or they must be completely destroyed.

§ 501.18 Destruction of meter stamps.

All meter stamps printed in the process of testing dies or meters must be collected and destroyed daily.

§ 501.19 Inspection of new and rebuilt meters.

All new and rebuilt meters must be inspected carefully before leaving the manufacturer's meter service station.

§ 501.20 Keys and setting equipment.

The meter manufacturer must furnish keys and other essential equipment for setting the meters to all post offices under whose jurisdiction its meters are licensed for use. These items must be protected and must not be furnished to persons not authorized by the Postal Service to possess them. The Postal Service shall maintain control over the procurement, manufacture, and distribution of meter security seals. Manufacturers must reimburse the Postal Service promptly for the cost of the seals. All costs associated with meter security seals are apportioned twice annually to the meter manufacturers by the installed base of each manufacturer.

§ 501.21 Distribution facilities.

Authorized manufacturers must keep adequate facilities for and records of